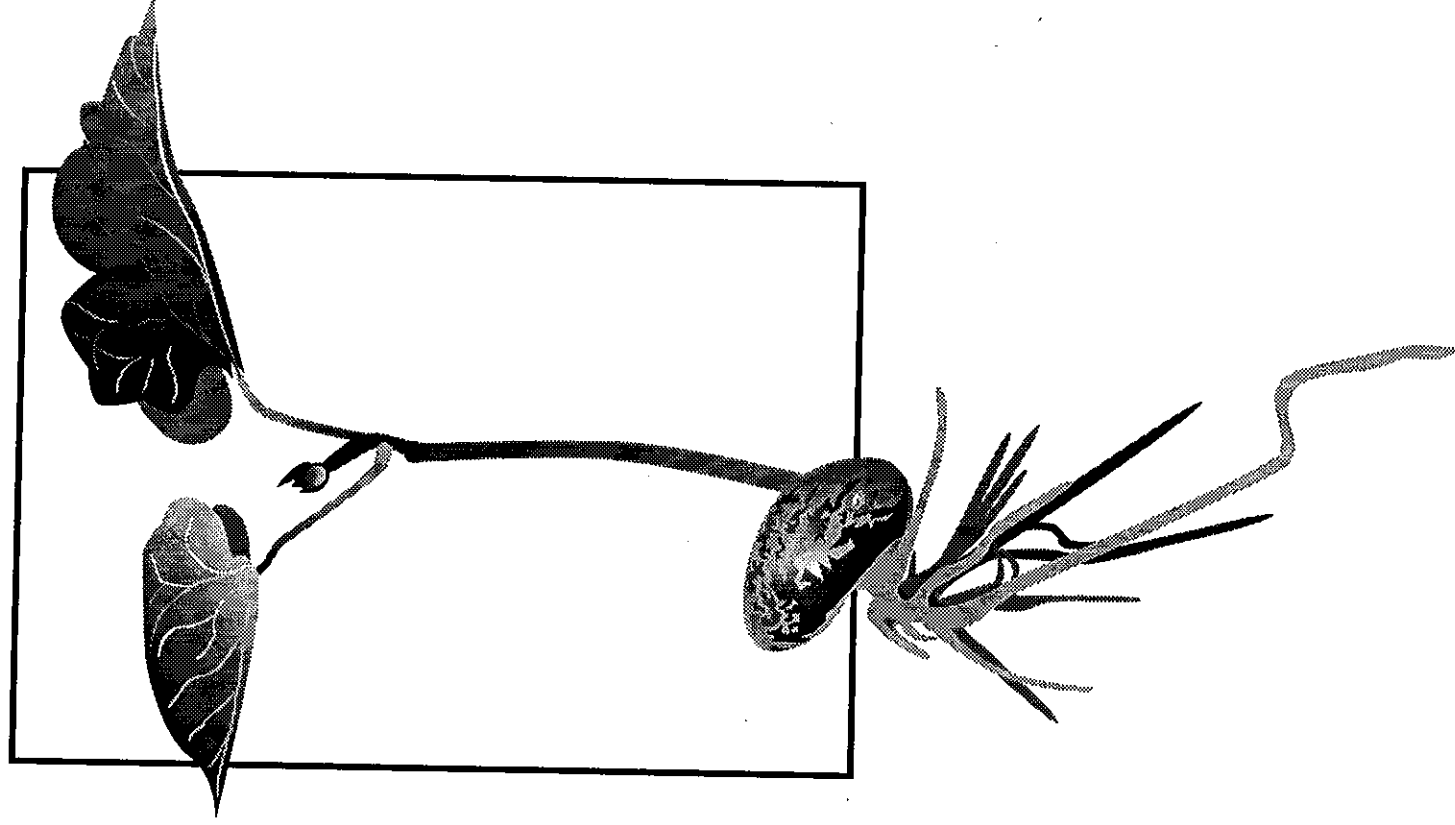


ACTIVITY 4

WHAT DO SEEDS NEED TO GROW?



Key Ideas

When a seed starts to grow it is called germination. Seeds need certain conditions before they will germinate. These conditions are usually the right soil type, water and air. Weather conditions can also be important. Once a seed has germinated it also needs light to continue growing. Some seeds need high temperatures and a fire to germinate.

Work Requirements

Students will:

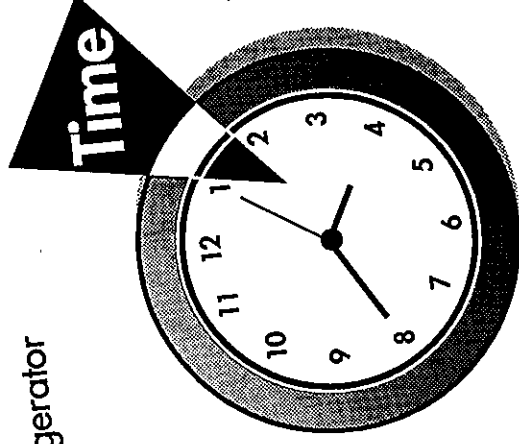
- investigate conditions that seeds need to germinate.
- compare the seeds grown in different conditions
- fill in appropriate information on Worksheet 3.

Teacher Preparation

Photocopy Task Card 1 and Worksheet 3.

Materials

4 saucers or jar lids
cotton wool
water
seeds (bird seed works well)
access to a cupboard and a refrigerator
large sheet of paper
felt pens
Task Card 1
Worksheet 3



This activity
need to be d
over a week
time set asid
every day to
observe the

Student Tasks

FOCUS

Class: Look at the seeds.
What do you think they need to germinate and grow?

INVESTIGATE

Small groups: Do Task Card 1, Germinating Seeds.
Look closely at what happens to each seed every day.
Record what you find on Worksheet 3.

PROCESS DATA

Class: Look at the results of the investigations on Worksheet 3.
Which seeds grew the biggest?
Which seeds did not grow well?

EVALUATE

Discussion: What were the best conditions for seeds to germinate and grow?
Do all seeds need the same conditions to germinate and grow?

USE SCIENCE

Class: Find out what seeds in your local area need to germinate and grow.
Find out if different seeds are found in different seasons.
Write down what you find out.

Vocabulary

germinate
grow
conditions
seeds

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS • • • • •

Ask a community member to talk to the class about seasons in the community and how they tell the difference between seasons.

Are plants important in telling the difference between seasons?

Make a seasonal chart - Ask the Aboriginal teachers and invite the older person to come in and talk to the children. This will be a class project for the children to do the drawings and make different seasonal charts.



GERMINATING SEEDS

What You Need

seeds
4 saucers or jar lids
cotton wool
water

What You Do

1. Put cotton wool or blotting paper in each saucer.
2. Put 4 seeds on the cotton wool in each saucer.
3. Put the same amount of water in each saucer (just enough to dampen the cotton wool).
4. Put one saucer near a window.
Put one saucer inside a cupboard.
Put one saucer on a desk away from any window.
Put one saucer in the refrigerator.
5. Give the seeds water everyday. Make sure you use the same amount of water in each saucer.
6. Check the seeds everyday and record what is happening on Worksheet 3.

Saucer	Near window	Inside cupboard	Away from window	In refrigerator
Day 1				
Day 2				
Day 3				
Day 4				
Day 5				
Day 6				
Day 7				